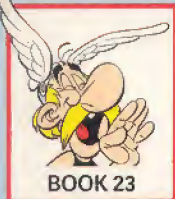


HODDER DARGAUD PRESENTS



BOOK 23

TEXT: GOSCINNY
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

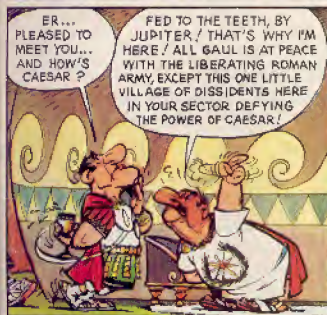
Asterix

and the BANQUET

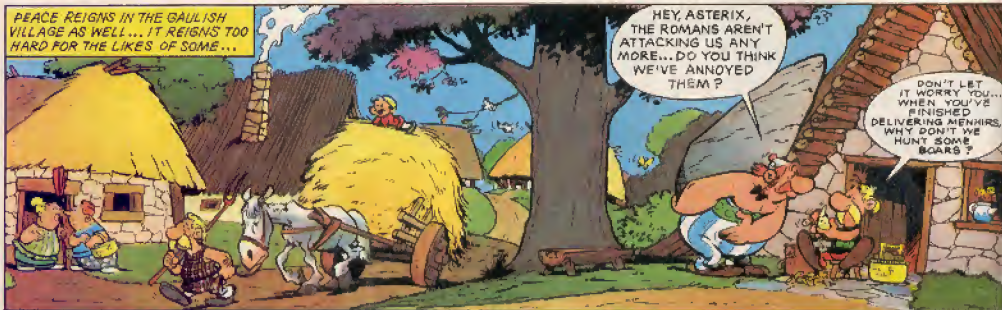


-UDERZO-

PEACE REIGNS IN THE
FORTIFIED ROMAN CAMP
OF COMPENDIUM...



PEACE REIGNS IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE AS WELL... IT REIGNS TOO HARD FOR THE LIKES OF SOME...



HEY, ASTERIX, THE ROMANS AREN'T ATTACKING US ANY MORE... DO YOU THINK WE'VE ANNOYED THEM?

DON'T LET IT WORRY YOU... WHEN YOU'VE FINISHED DELIVERING MENHIRS, WHY DON'T WE HUNT SOME BOARS?

SOON AFTERWARDS, IN THE FOREST...



SUPPOSE WE WROTE TO THE ROMANS?

WE COULD EXPLAIN THAT...



YOU COWARDLY LOT! YOU EXPECT ME TO BELIEVE THAT A HANDFUL OF GAULS COULD RESIST YOU?

SSH!

DON'T MAKE SO MUCH NOISE, O OVERANKIUS, OR YOU'LL ALERT THE WHOLE HANDFUL!

IT'S THE ROMANS!!!

GOODY!



COME ON, WE MUST TELL THE OTHERS!

MUST WE? WHY NOT JUST DIVIDE THEM BETWEEN US? NO ONE WILL EVER KNOW...



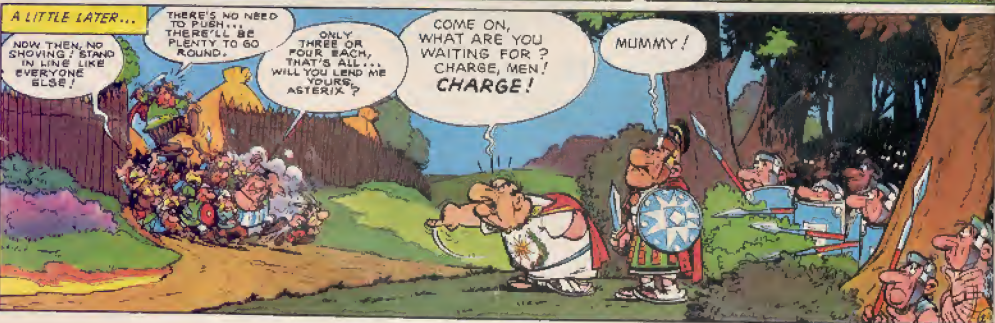
OBSELIUS, YOU'RE BEING VERY SELFISH! THE OTHERS HAVE A RIGHT TO THEIR BIT OF FUN! ROMANS ARE COMMON PROPERTY.



SO COME ALONG!

IT'S ALWAYS THE SAME! IT'S NOT FAIR, IT JUST ISN'T FAIR... IF THEY WANT ROMANS, WHY CAN'T THEY GO AND FIND SOME OF THEIR OWN...?

A LITTLE LATER...



NOW THEN, NO SHOVING! STAND IN LINE LIKE EVERYONE ELSE!

THERE'S NO NEED TO PUSH... THERE'LL BE PLENTY TO GO ROUND.

ONLY THREE OR FOUR EACH, THAT'S ALL... WILL YOU LEND ME YOURS, ASTERIX?

COME ON, WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR? CHARGE, MEN! CHARGE!

MUMMY!

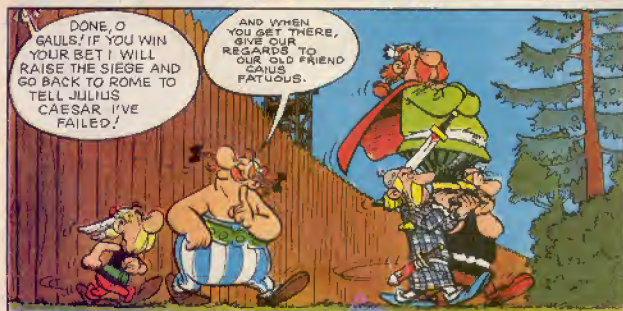
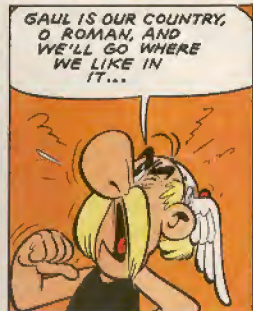
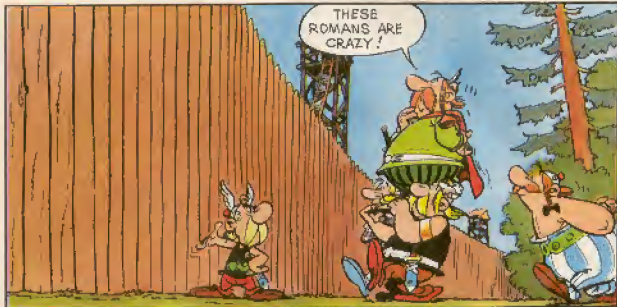
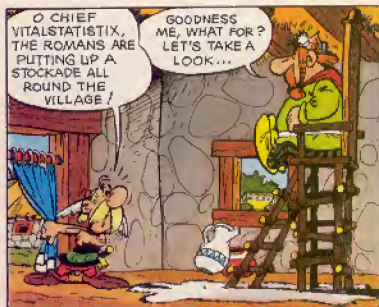
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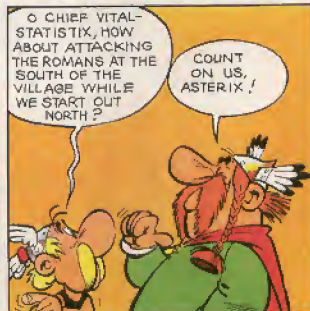
SOON AFTERWARDS...

EX-81! MONUMENTUM AERE PERENNIBUS.

LET'S HOPE YOU'RE RIGHT!

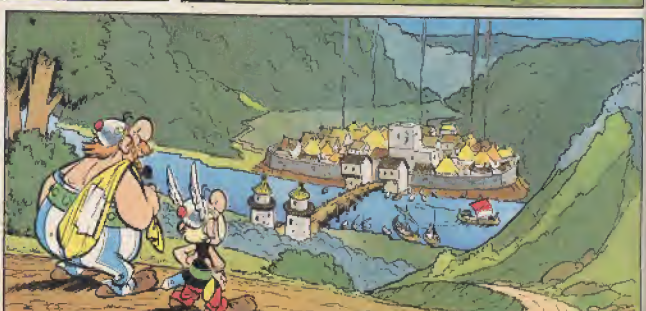
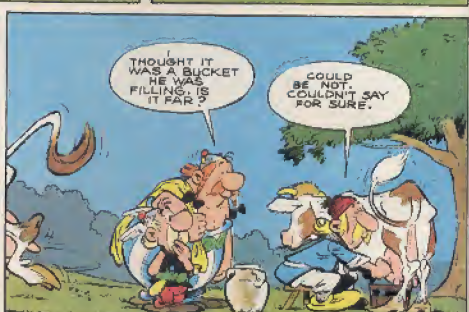
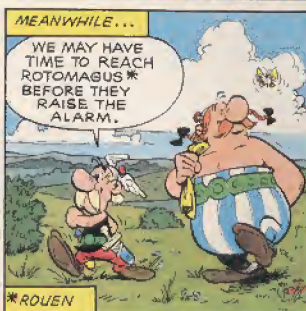
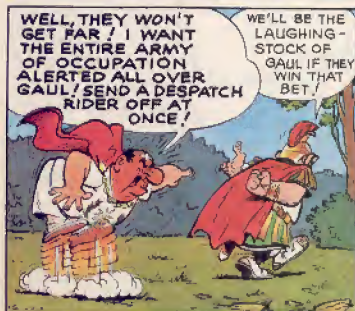
HOPE
YOU'RE
RIGHT.



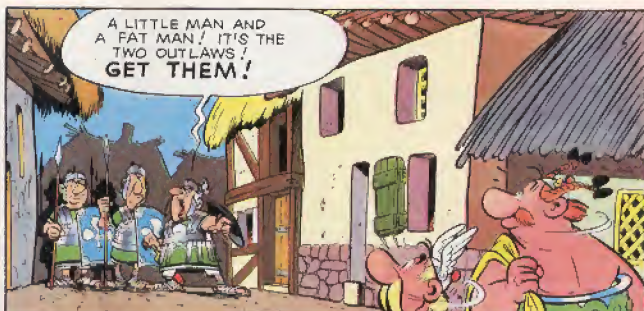


AND THIS IS THE START OF THE FAMOUS TOUR OF GAUL!

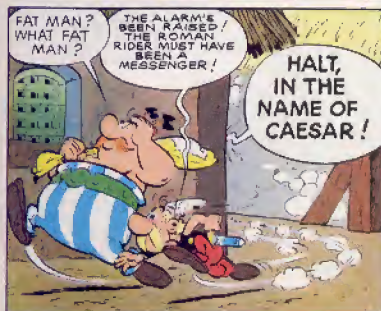


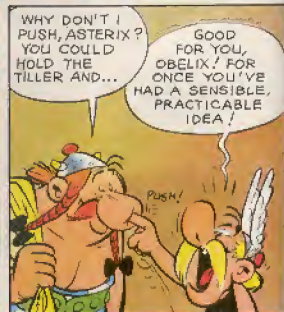
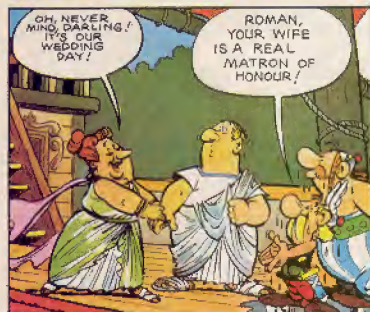
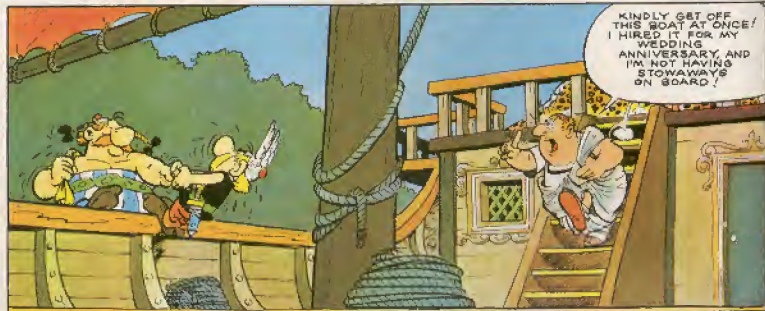


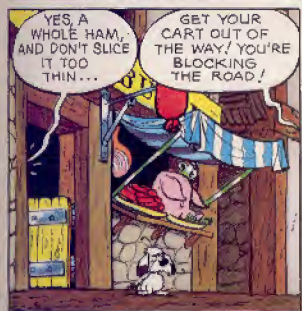
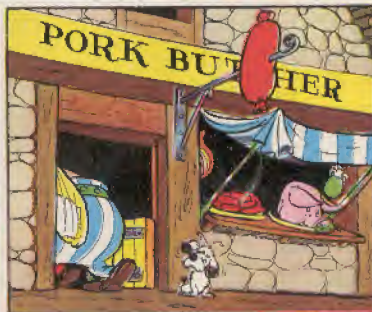
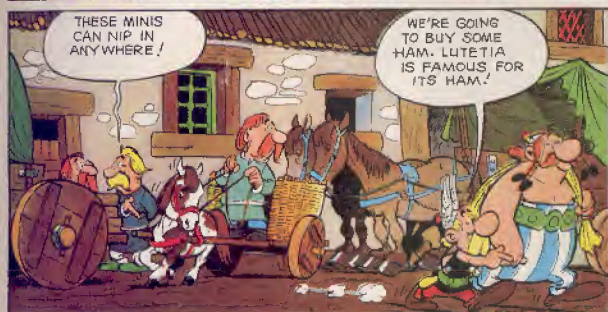
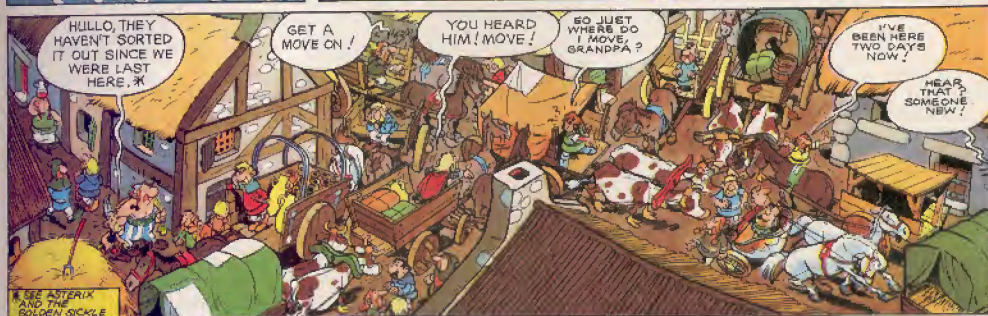
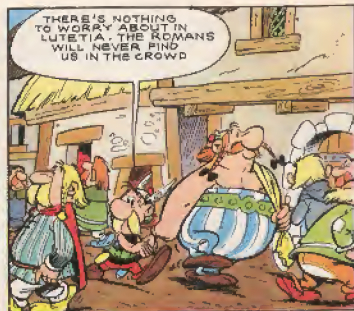
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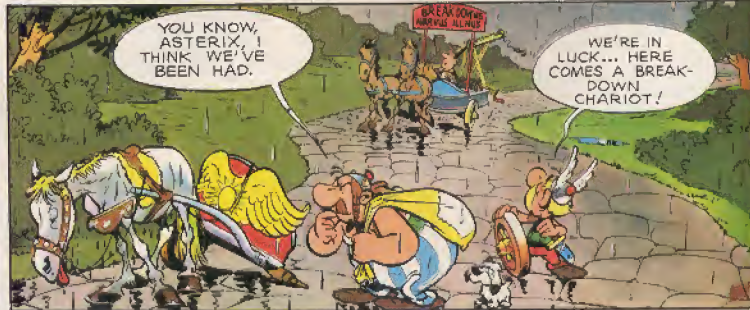
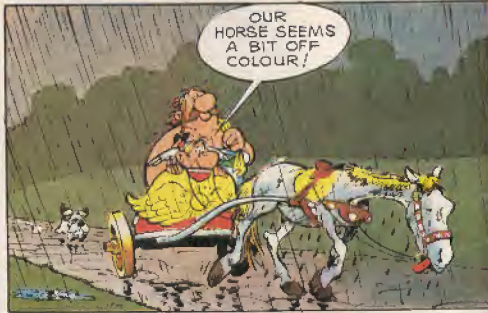
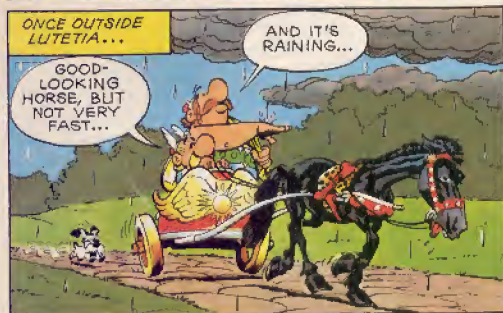
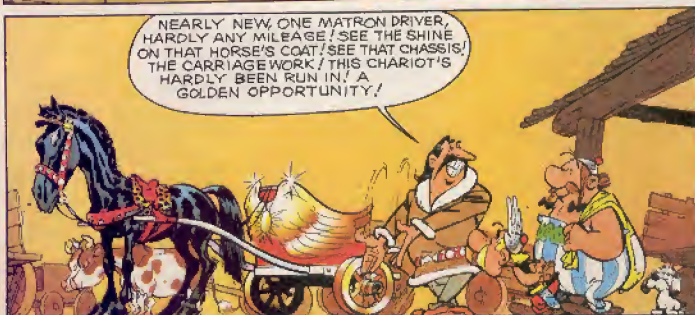
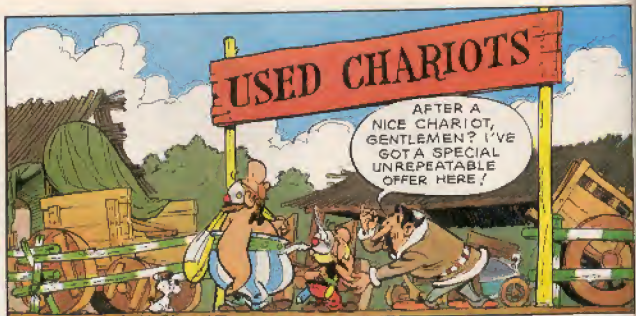
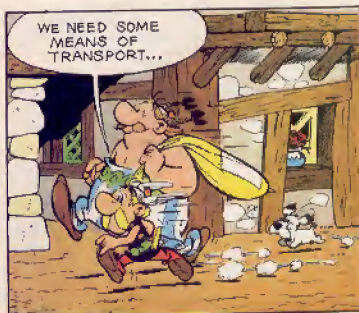


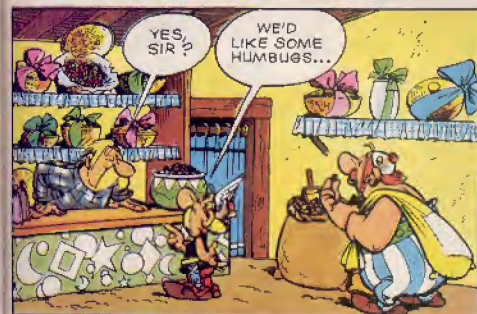
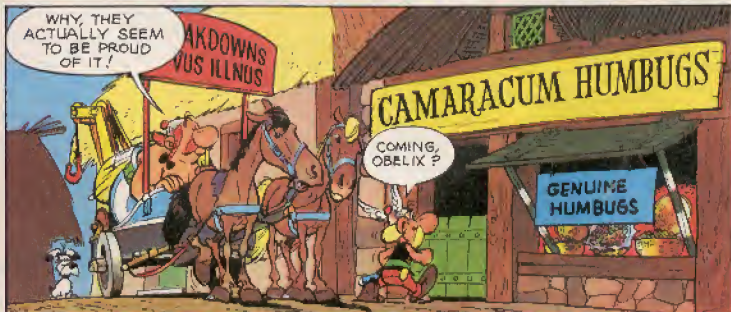
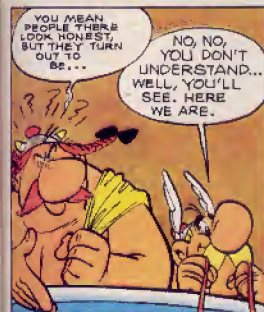
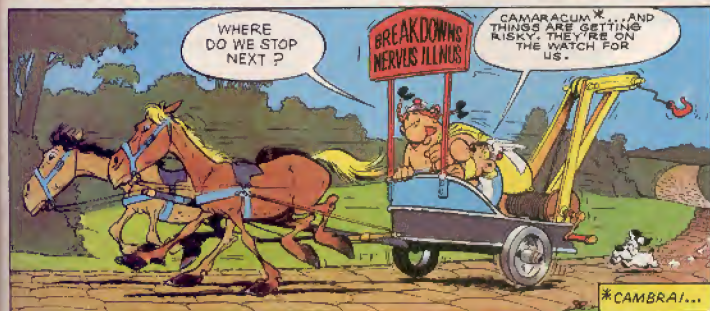
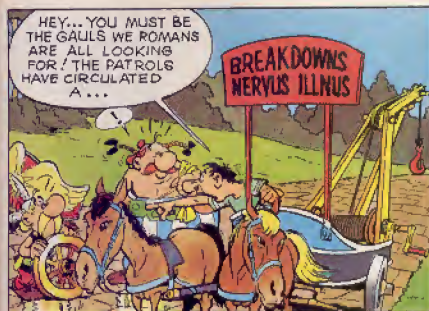
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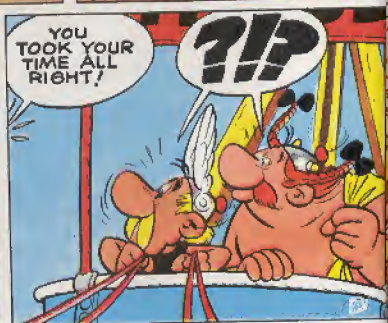
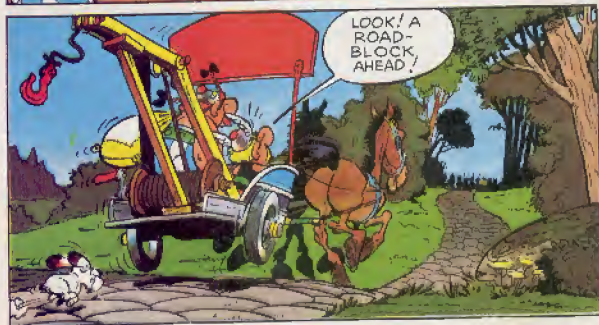
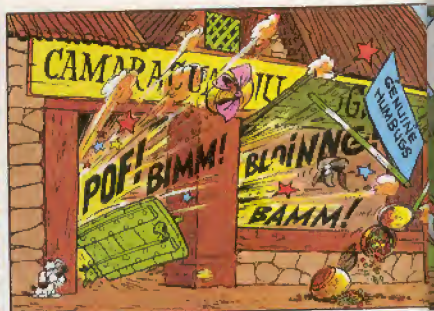


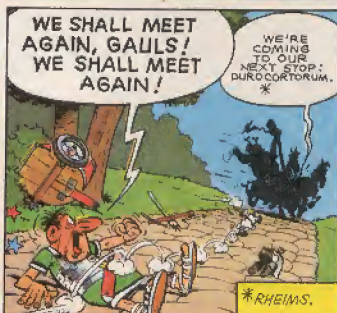
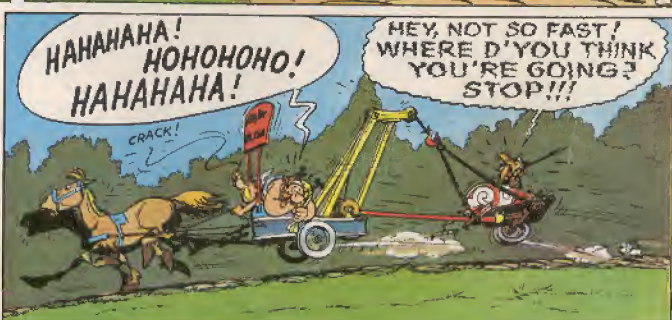
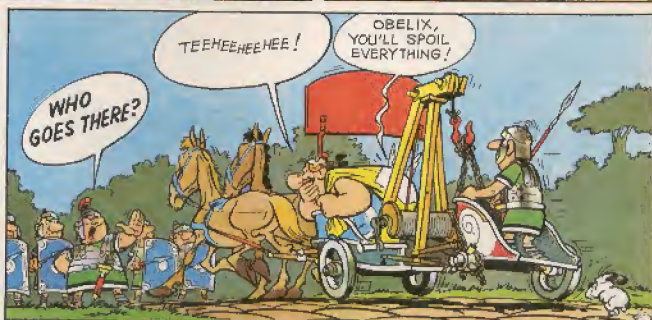
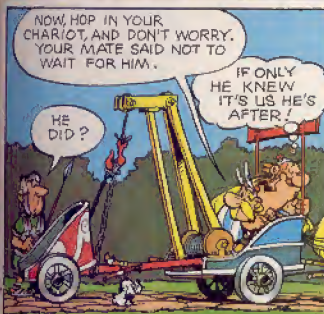
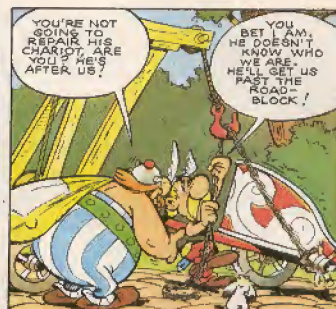
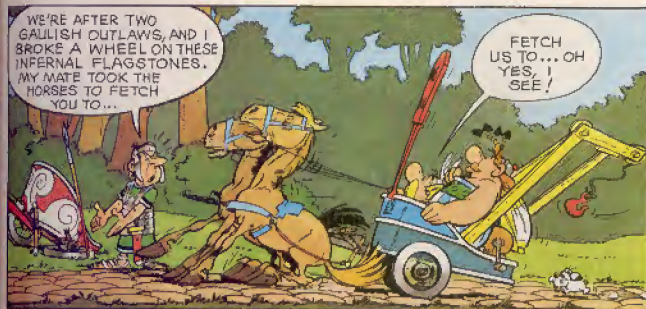


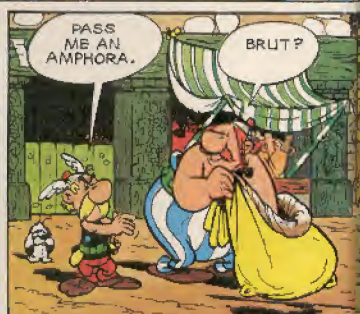


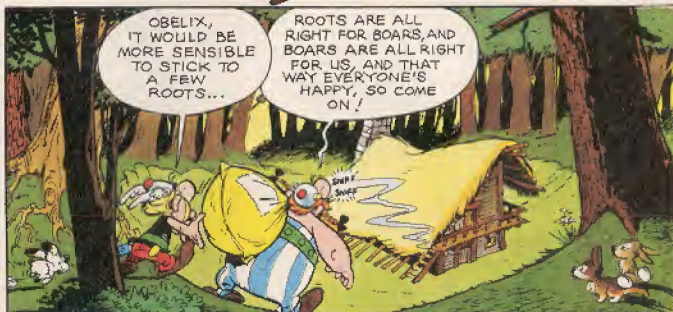
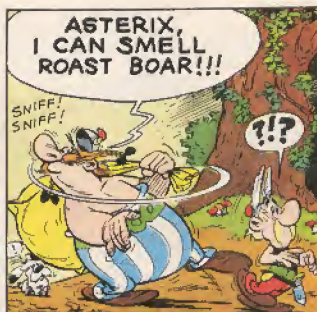
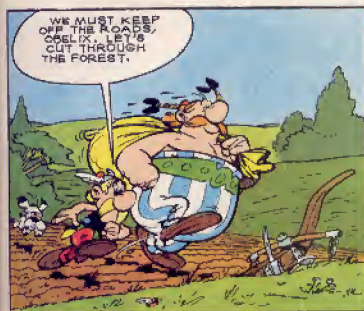


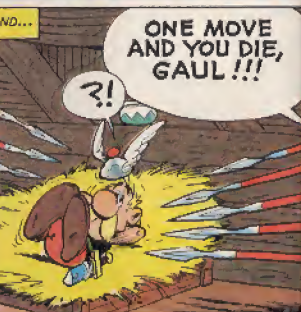
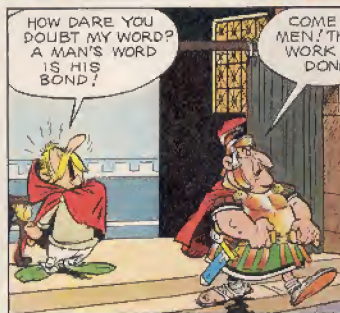


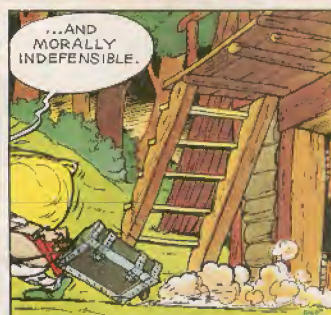


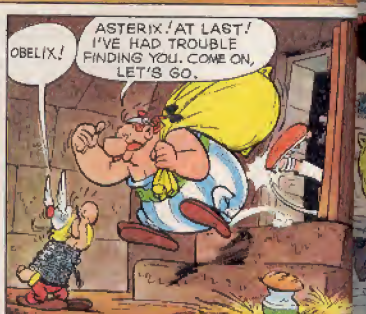
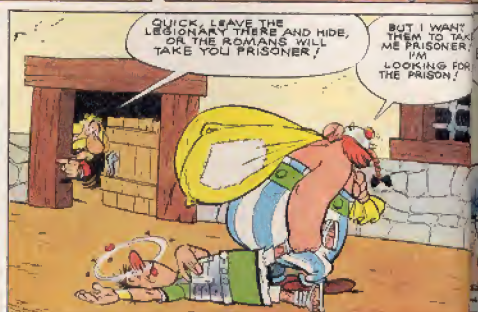
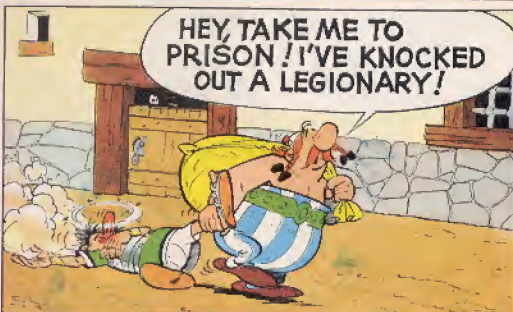
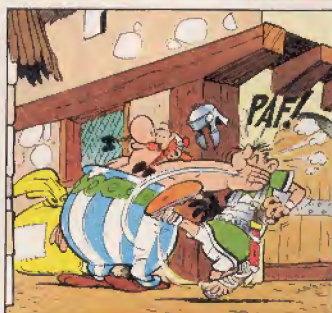


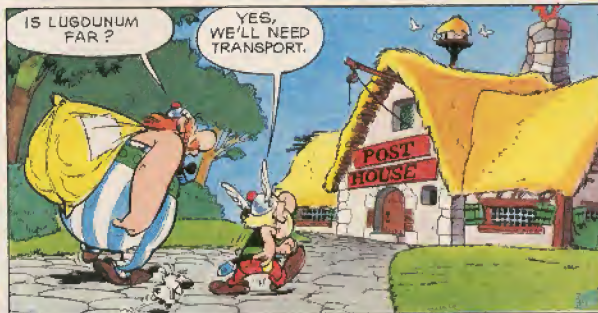
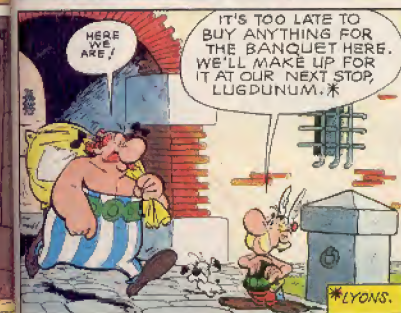
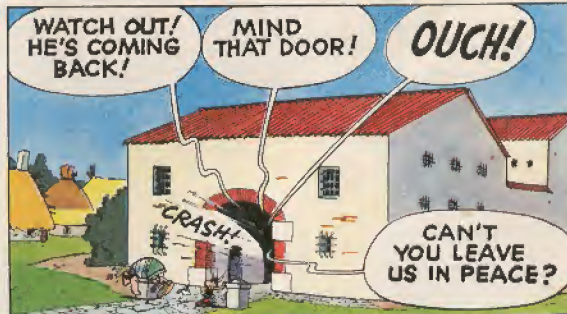
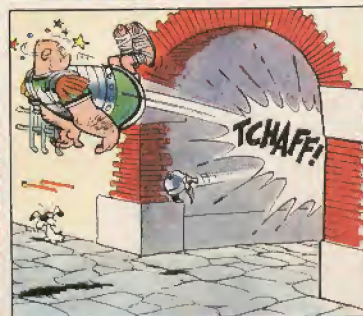
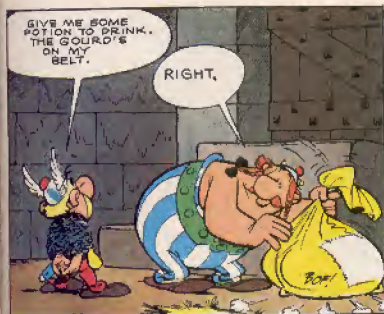


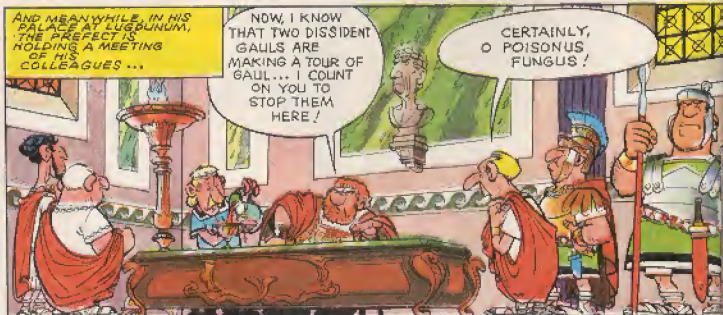
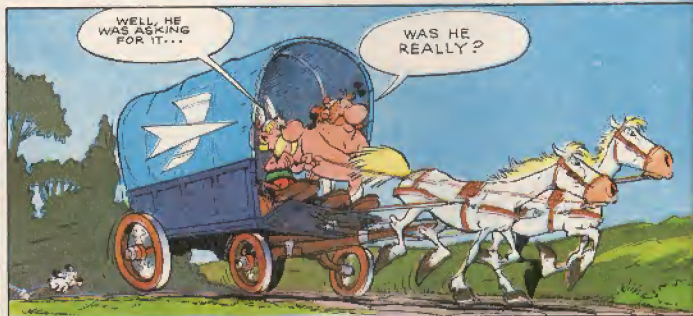
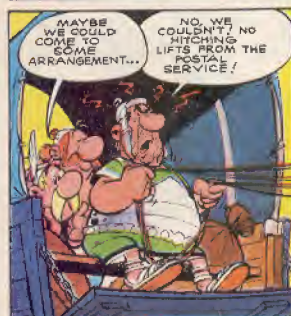
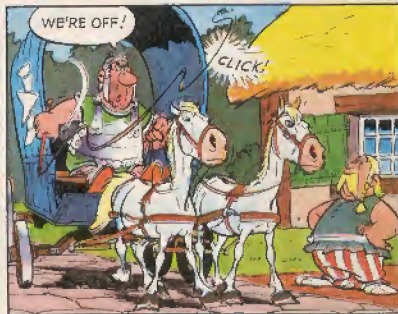
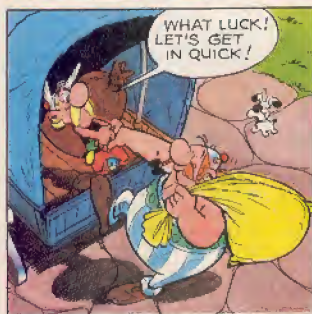
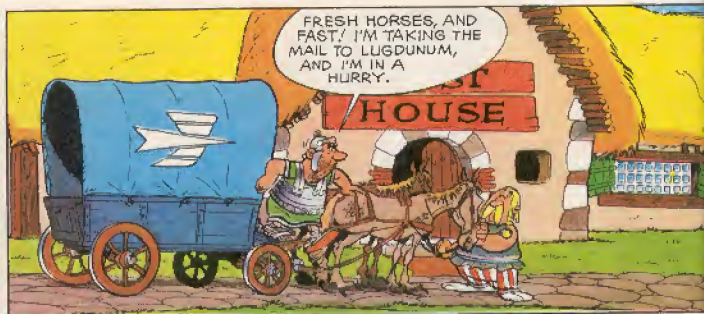


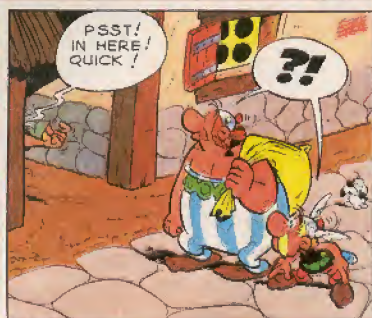
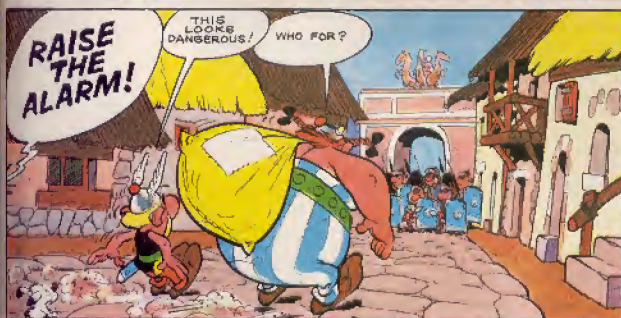
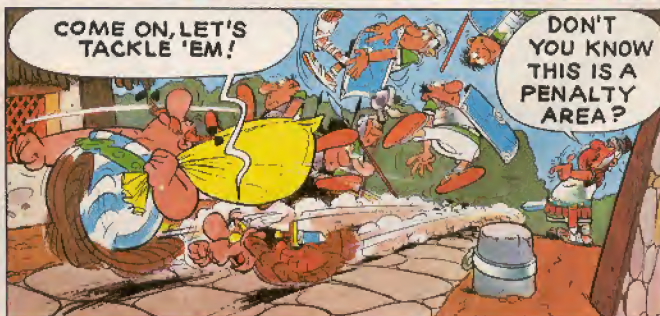
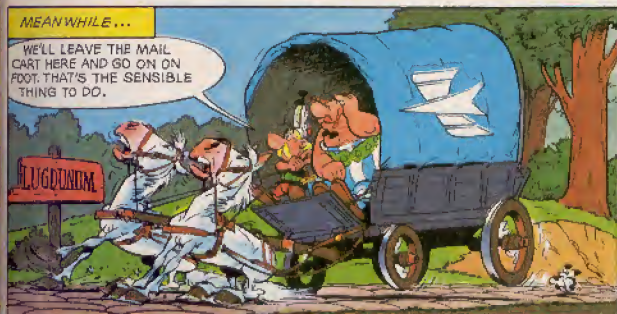
















THEY'RE TRYING TO GET US LOST... LET'S RETRACE OUR STEPS!



AND SOON...

YOOHOO! ARE YOU THERE, FIBROSITUS?

NO, I'M HERE!

DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM!



JUST OUTSIDE THE MAZE...

THOSE WRETCHED GAULS ARE TRYING TO FOOL ME... I'M GOING IN TO LOOK FOR MY GARRISON!

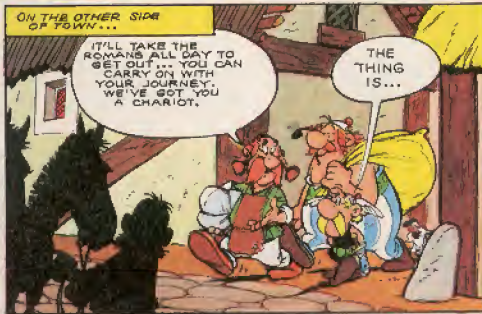


BUT I SHALL LEAVE A TRAIL OF PEBBLES BEHIND ME, TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE. *

*AN IDEA LATER TAKEN UP BY A FAMOUS TELLER OF FAIRY TALES, WHICH GOES TO SHOW THAT IMITATION IS THE SINCEREST FORM OF FLATTERY.



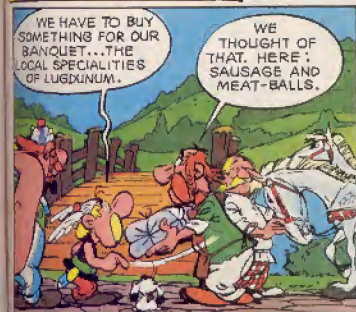
HEY, GARRISON, WHERE ARE YOU?



ON THE OTHER SIDE OF TOWN...

IT'LL TAKE THE ROMANS ALL DAY TO GET OUT... YOU CAN CARRY ON WITH YOUR JOURNEY. WE'VE GOT YOU A CHARIOT.

THE THING IS...



WE HAVE TO BUY SOMETHING FOR OUR BANQUET... THE LOCAL SPECIALTIES OF LUGDUNUM.

WE THOUGHT OF THAT, HERE: SAUSAGE AND MEAT-BALLS.



HOW CAN WE THANK YOU?

BY WINNING YOUR BET, FRIENDS!

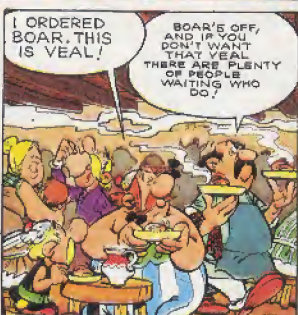
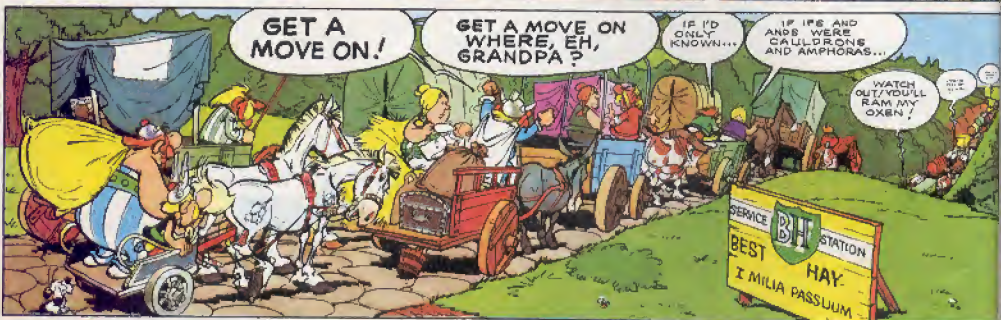
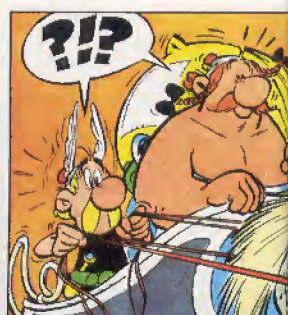
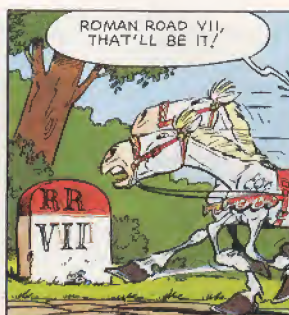
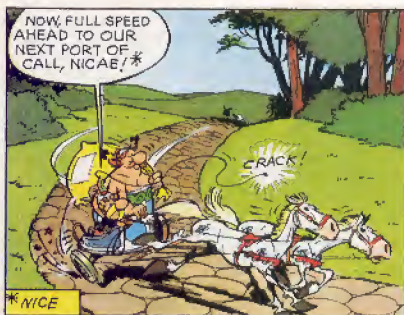


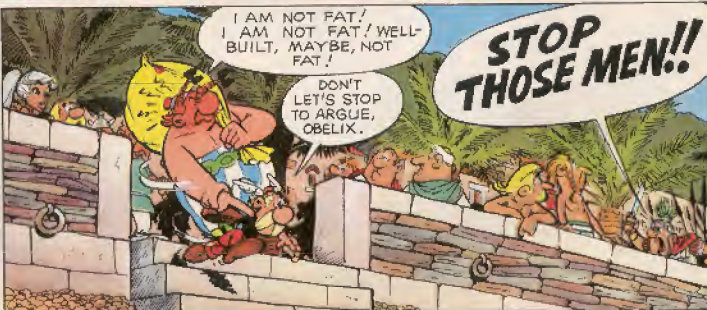
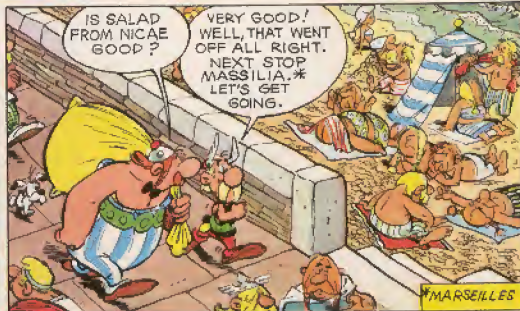
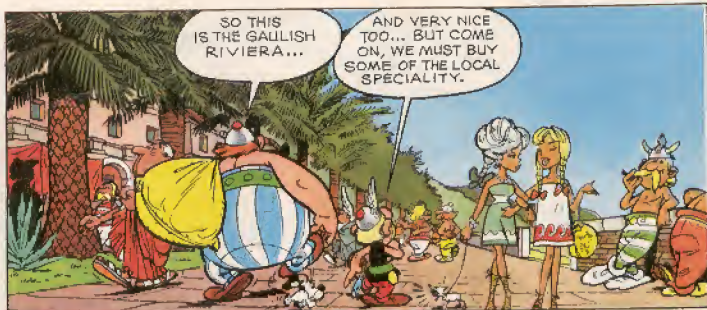
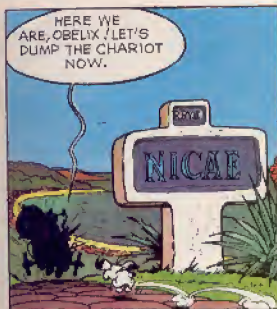
YOOHOO! ARE YOU THERE?

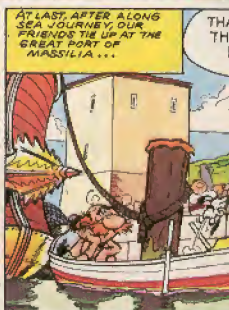
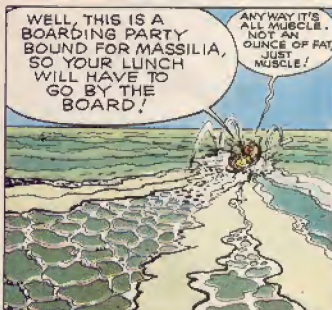
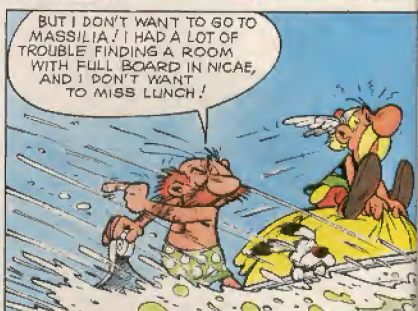
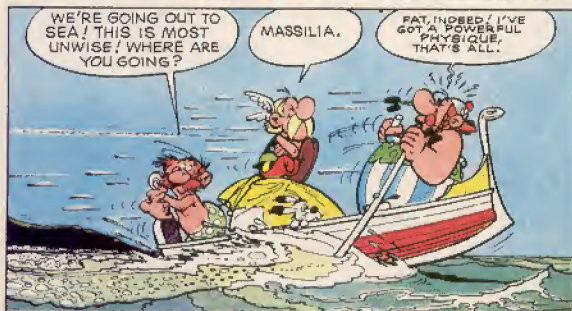
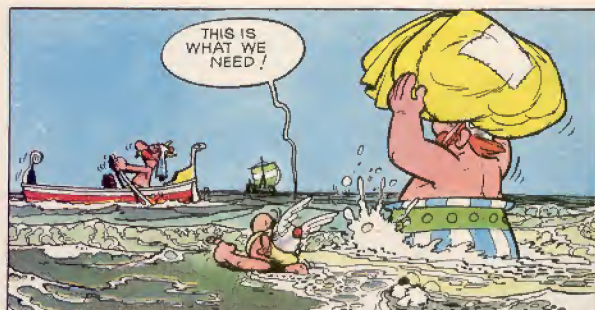
OH, WAS IT YOU WHO DROPPED ALL THOSE PEBBLES, O PERFECT POISONOUS FUNGUS? HERE, I'VE BEEN PICKING THEM UP FOR YOU!

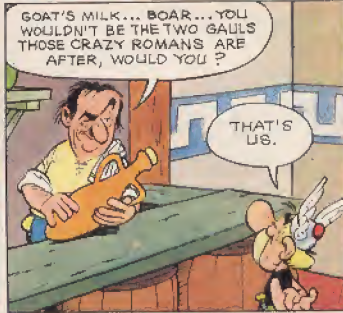
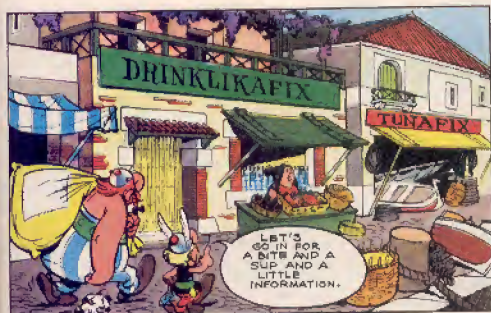
I WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE, DECURION!

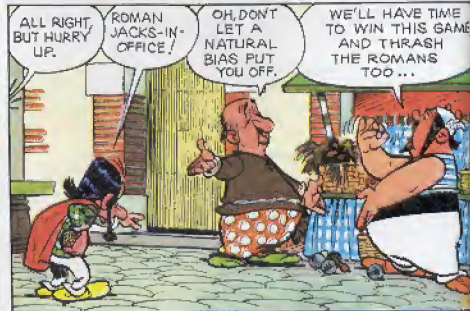
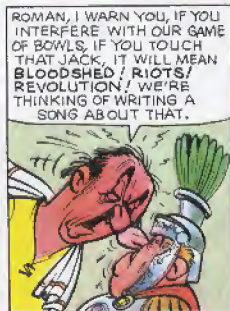
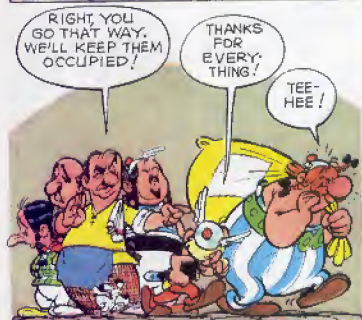
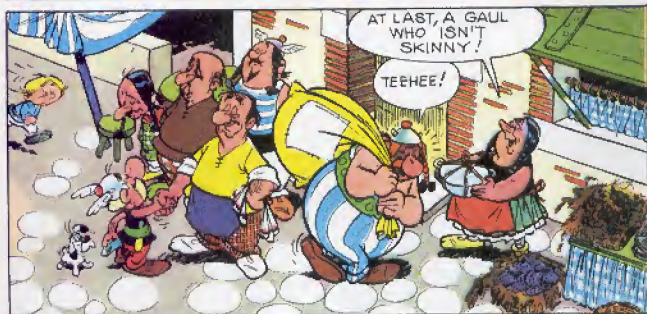
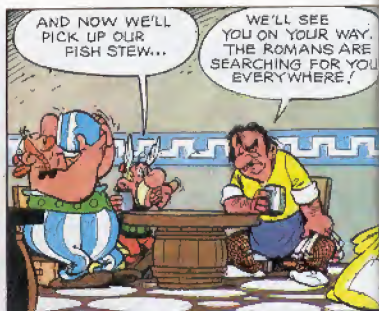
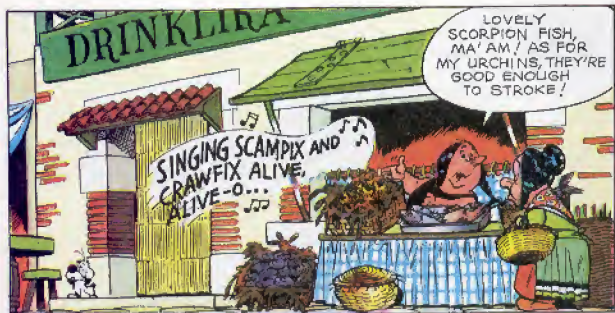
NOW LET'S ALL KEEP CALM! DON'T PANIC!

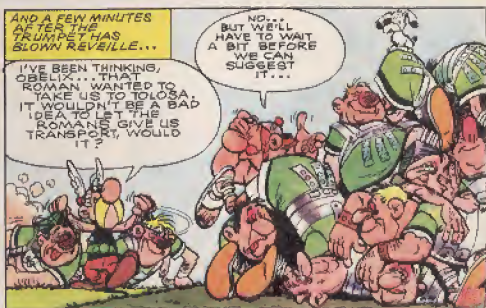
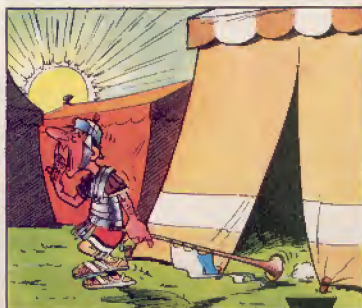
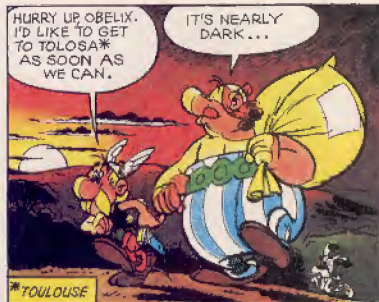




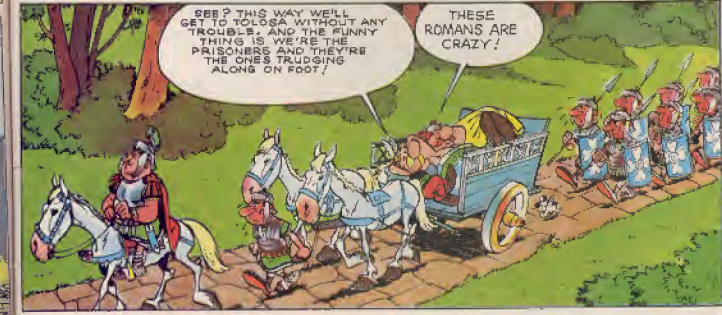
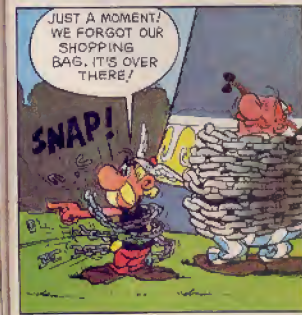
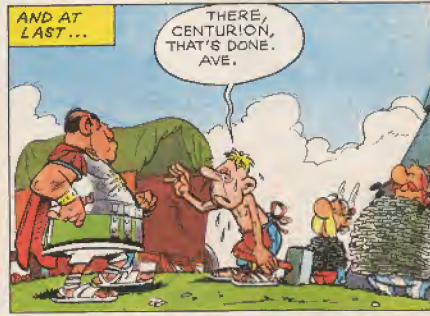


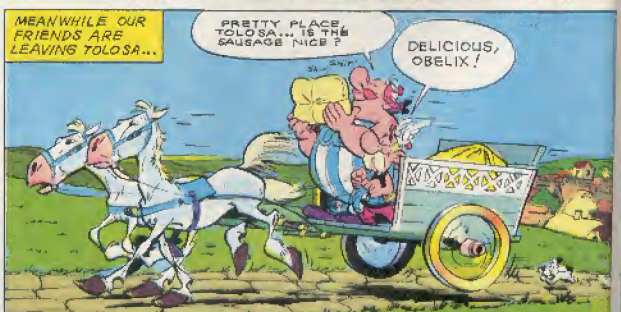
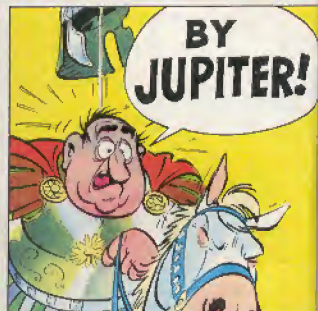
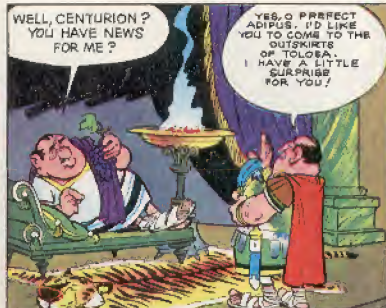
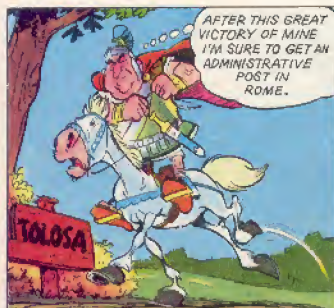


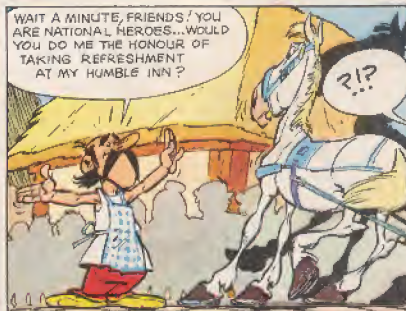
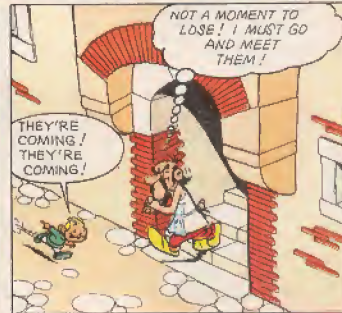
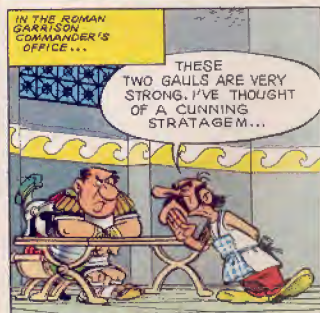
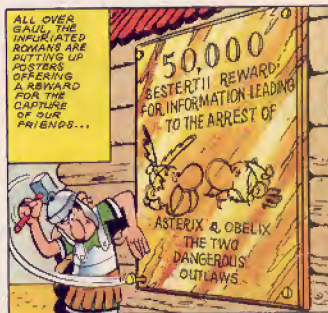


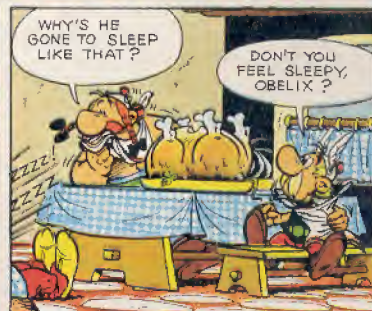
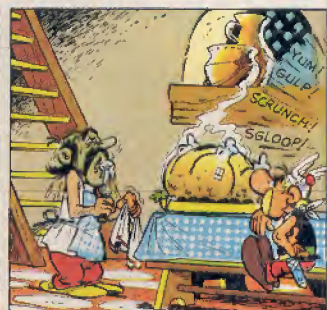
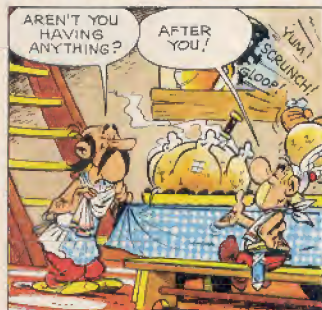
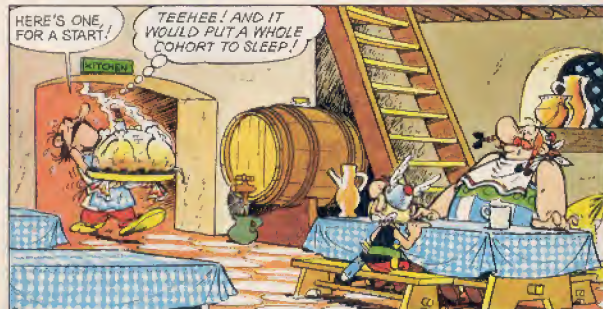
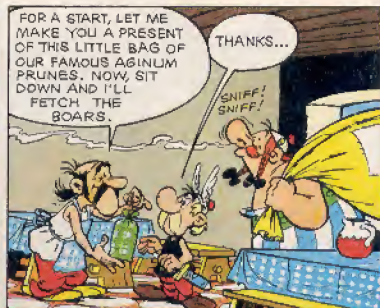
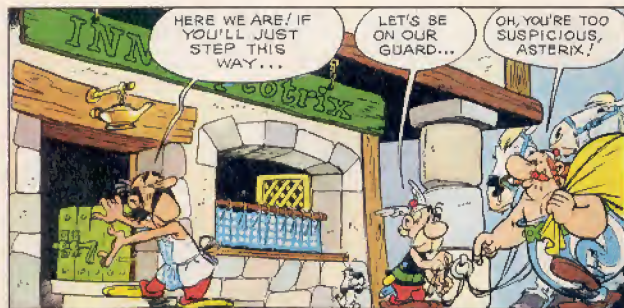


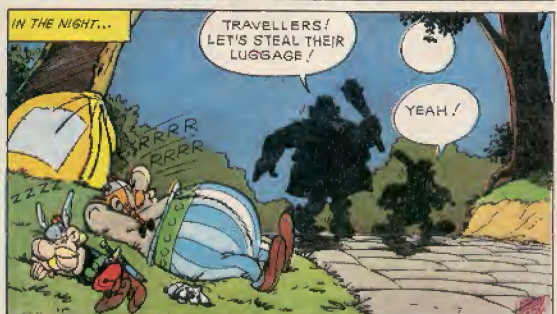
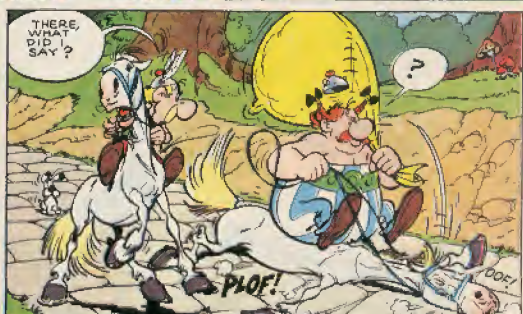
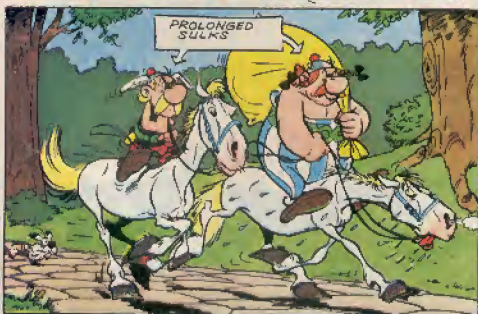
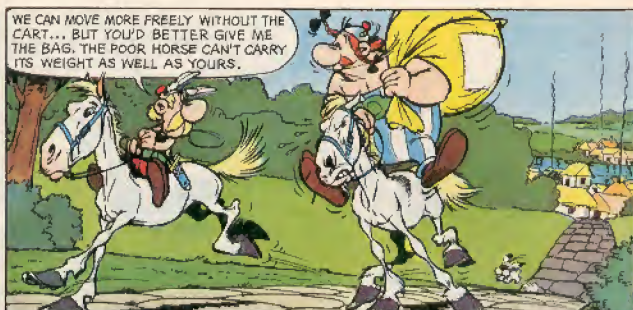


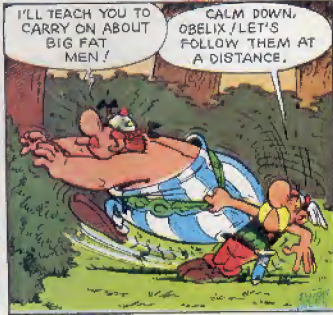
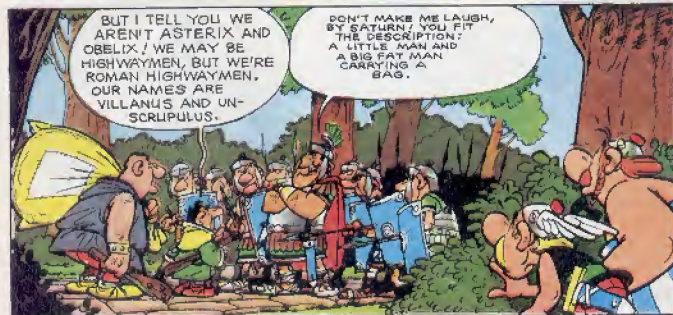
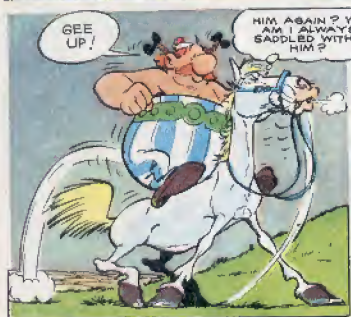
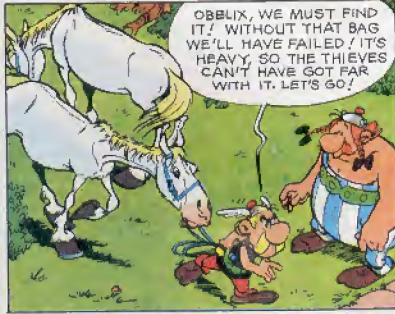
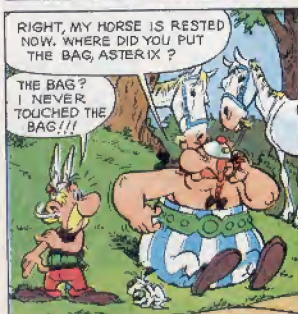
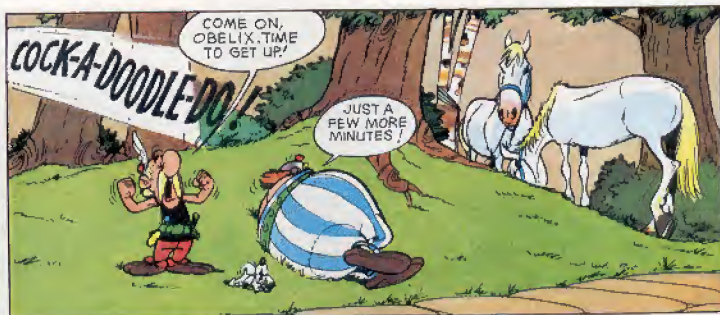


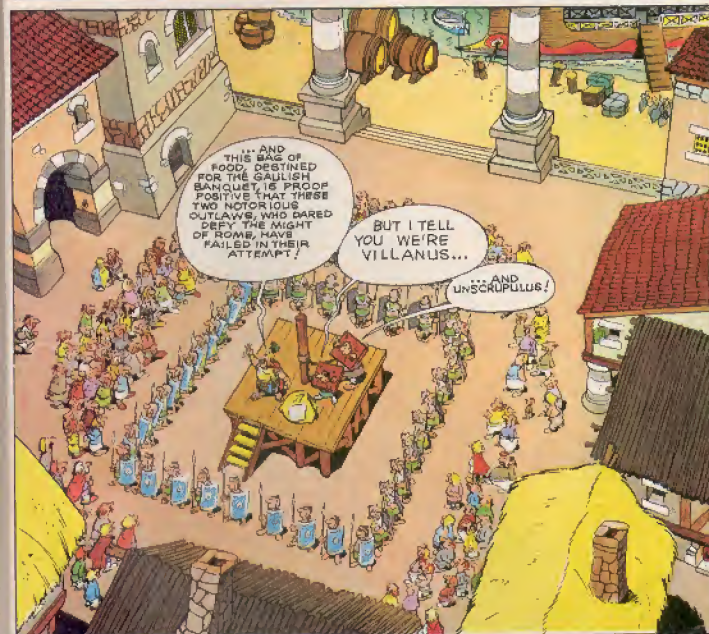
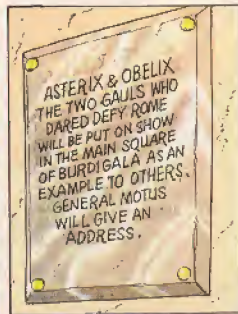
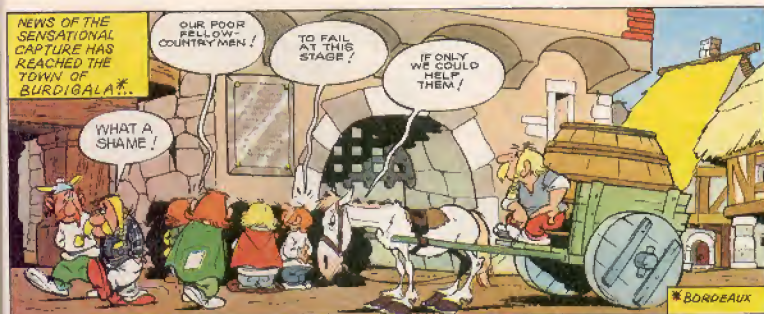


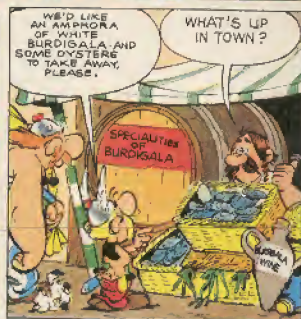
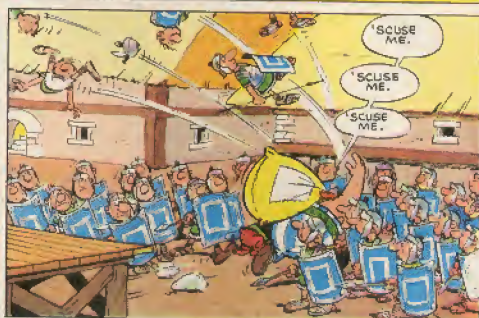
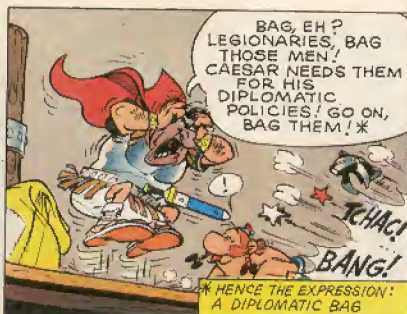


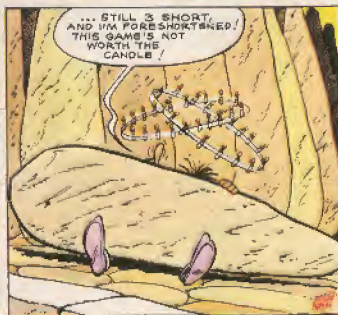
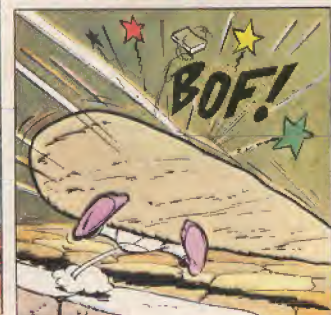
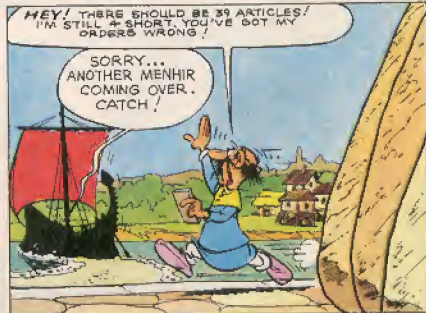
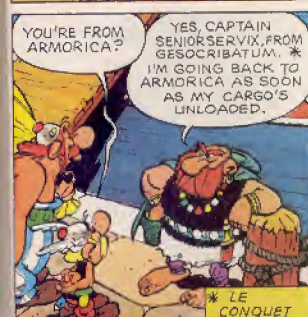


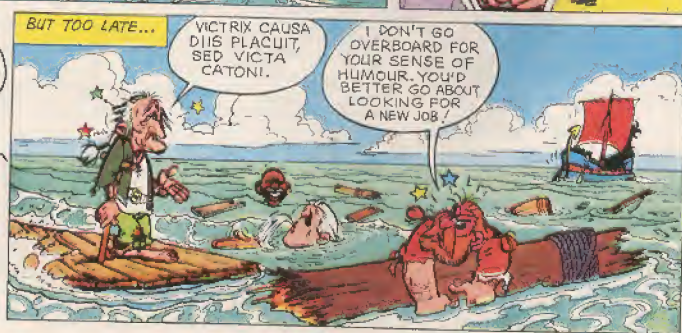
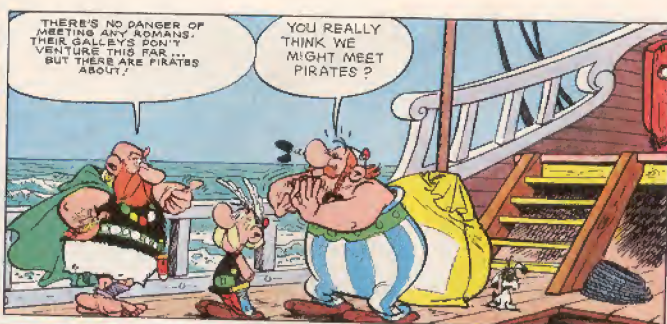


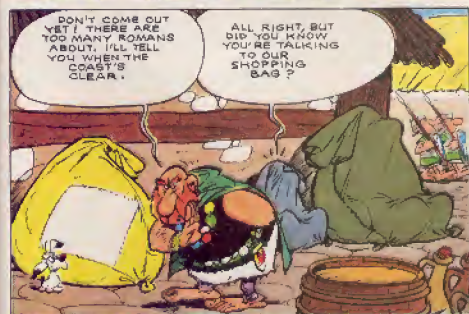
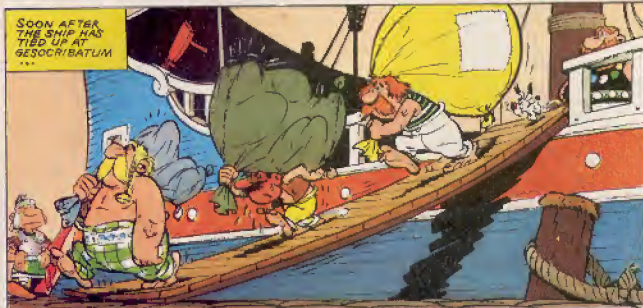
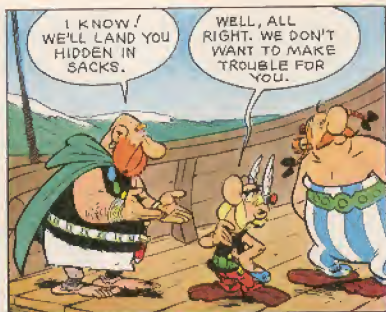


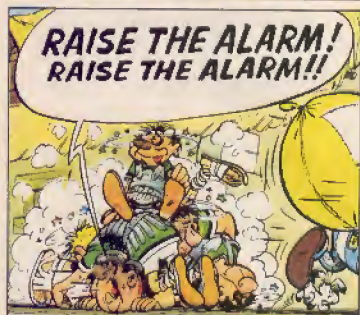


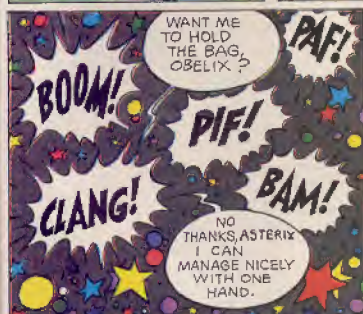
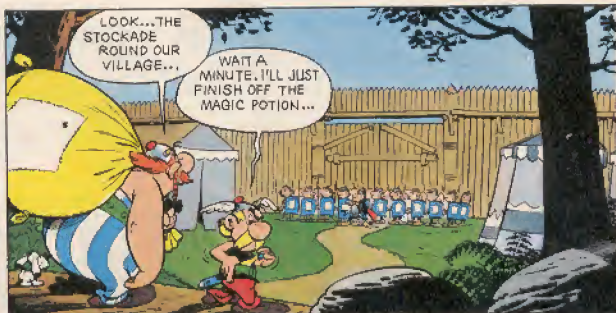












AND THAT EVENING OVER-
ANXIUS COMES, GNASHING
HIS TEETH, TO SINK THEM IN
THE EVIDENCE...



HERE ARE THE
THINGS TO EAT AND
DRINK WE'VE
BROUGHT BACK
FROM ALL OVER
GAUL... HAM FROM
LUTETIA, HUMBUGS
FROM CANNARACUM,
DUROCORTORUM
WINE...



... SAUSAGE FROM
TOLOSA, SAUSAGE FROM
LUODINUM, SALAD
FROM NICAR, RISK
STEVE FROM MASSILIA,
OYSTERS AND WINE
FROM BURDISALA.

BUT THERE'S
STILL ONE COURSE
MISSING... THE
SPECIALITY OF
THIS VILLAGE!



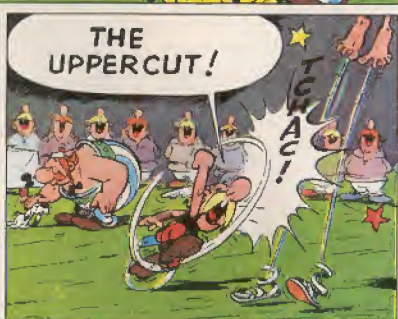
QUITE
RIGHT,
OBELIX!



O, OVERANXIUS, YOU
KNOW WHICH CUT OF
MEAT IS OUR OWN
SPECIALITY?

WOOF!
WOOF!

THE
UPPERCUT!



AND OUR FRIENDS HOLD A MAGNIFICENT
BANQUET TO CELEBRATE THEIR
TRUMPHANT TOUR OF GAUL, PUTTING
BACK ALL THE DELICIOUS FOOD AND
WINE OF THEIR BEAUTIFUL AND
BELIEVED COUNTRY... AS INSPECTOR
GENERAL OVERANXIUS COULD
CONFIRM, IT IS A GENUINE THREE-
STAR MEAL...



THE
END